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Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa greets Nagarathna, a Group-D health worker, who became the first person in Karnataka to receive the Covid-19 vaccine shot at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday. State Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan were also present | EXPRESS

TWO LAKH HEALTH WORKERS GET VACCINE ON DAY ONE

(From left) AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria getting the first dose of Covishield vaccine in New Delhi. Phase-I of the nationwide drive was reserved for healthcare workers in the frontline of the battle against Covid-19 | SHEKHAR YADAV, UDAYSHANKAR S, VINAY MADAPU, SANESH SARA, & G SATYANARAYANA

Union Health Ministry says there were no cases of post-inoculation hospitalisation

PEOPLE OF K'TAKA ROLL UP SLEEVE AGAINST COVID-19

TEAM TNIE @ Bengaluru

THE first phase of the Covid-19 vaccination drive in Karnataka began at 243 sites across the state, including nine in Bengaluru, on Saturday minutes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched it through video-conferencing. Nagaratna K, a 28-year-old ward attendant at Victoria Hospital, became the first one to receive the jab in the presence of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and state Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar.

While some districts saw very few beneficiaries turning up to take the jab, there were also technical glitches with the CoWIN app which resulted in some delay in starting the drive. However, there were no major side-effects reported among the beneficiaries other than giddiness, pain and swelling in the vaccination area.

Addressing a press conference in the evening, after a discussion with Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, the state health minister said, "It was a historic moment for us. Our scientists have developed vaccines for Covid-19 in just 10 months. Every citizen is indebted to our scientists and institutions. I also thank the PM, the CM and all other leaders who guided us."

CONTINUED ON: P7

DAY'S COUNT

60.2% of the total registered beneficiaries in state took the vaccination shot

59% in Bengaluru; of which 65% in the six zones of Bengaluru Urban, 53% in Bengaluru Rural

Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur districts saw an average of 65%

I was working in the Covid ward for a month and was at high risk of infection. Now with the jab, I feel very confident.

Nagarathna, who got the first shot

We did not fear death while carrying out our job. Now, why would we fear taking a vaccine that is meant to protect us?

Syed Hussain, Staffer at Madikeri District Hospital

I was not afraid of Covid itself, and took all the precautions while on duty. I am not afraid of the vaccination either.

Sandesh U, Ambulance driver in Mysuru

I will take the vaccine when told, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

URGING health workers and others to take the Covid-19 vaccine without any apprehension, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said he will take the shot when he is advised to do so.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Yediyurappa said, "In Karnataka, we have identified 243 centres, and in each centre, 100 people will get vaccinated in a day. The numbers will increase gradually. Many, including senior medical experts like Dr Sudarshan Balal, are taking this vaccine. One need not be skeptical or fearful as the vaccine is from India. Karnataka has sufficient cold storage facilities for the vaccine vials. As on Saturday, 43,015 frontline workers were registered for the drive. We are one among the few states to register such a big number for the vaccination."

3,351 sessions held at 3,006 vaccination sites across country

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

OVER 60% of the targeted 3 lakh-plus healthcare workers scheduled to get the Covid-19 vaccine on the first day of the vaccination programme took the shot on Saturday, the Union health ministry said. It added that 3,351 sessions were held throughout the country wherein 1,91,181 beneficiaries were vaccinated.

The ministry had earlier said at every 3,006 vaccination centres throughout the country, 100 beneficiaries each would be vaccinated on the first day. Though the immediate reasons for the fewer than targeted number of vaccinations achieved was not shared, government sources conceded that at most places, less than the invited beneficiaries had turned up.

In the first phase, the government plans to vaccinate 1 crore healthcare workers followed by 2 crore frontline workers comprising police, paramilitary and defence personnel.

Even though politicians were not supposed to get the vaccine shots in the first phase, there were reports of several Trinamool Congress leaders, including two MLAs, receiving the Covid-19 vaccine in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district on Saturday. It created a controversy with many healthcare workers also alleging that they could not get the jab, according to media reports.

Talking to reporters on Saturday evening, additional secretary in the health ministry Manohar Agnani claimed there were no reports of hospitalisation after vaccination from anywhere in the country.

CONTINUED ON: P9

Adverse events in Delhi, MH

At least 52 cases of adverse events were reported among health workers who were administered the coronavirus vaccine in Delhi on Saturday, according to official figures. Maharashtra reported another 14 such cases

Bharat Biotech to pay compensation for adverse reaction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SIGNING a consent form is mandatory to get Bharat Biotech's Covaxin jab. While the form makes it clear that Bharat Biotech will be liable to pay compensation in case of serious adverse events following immunisation, it is silent on the amount.

The form is attached with the vaccine, whose efficacy is yet to be proven. It has been launched on 'clinical trial mode', as mandated by the Drug Controller General of India. Sources in the Union Health Ministry and the ICMR said that Covaxin recipients are required to sign the consent form, which assures medical care and compensation if any adverse effect linked to the vaccine was found.

The government has procured 55 million doses of Covaxin for the first phase of the vaccination drive. However, doctors have raised concerns over being inoculated with a vaccine that is still under trial. In several states Covaxin is being offered only at Centrally-run hospitals; healthcare workers are not given the choice of vaccine.

IN MESSAGE TO DETRACTORS, OPPN, SHAH BACKS BSY's LEADERSHIP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AT a time when the Opposition is going hammer and tongs against the BJP government and voices of dissent are being heard within the ruling party after the cabinet rejig, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has firmly endorsed Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's leadership.

"Every other day, I keep reading about our Congress friends' statements about all kinds of speculation. I want to tell everyone that the BJP government in Karnataka will complete its full term and come back to power again for five years with full majority," Shah asserted, while virtually inaugurating 'Police Gruha 2025', a housing project, and the India Reserve Battalion Police (IRBP) unit in Vijayapura, from the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday evening.

Home Minister Amit Shah in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Launching a broadside against the Congress, Shah said that instead of indulging in such talk, they must work with the people as they are not going to get anything from the BJP, which is a party that works for people. "A number of development works have been taken up in Karnataka and the state is marching on the development path under Yediyurappa's leadership. It will continue to do so and PM Modi too has granted a number of projects for Karnataka," Shah pointed out. He added that the Centre will strongly back the CM and development of the state. P7

'Yediyurappa did well in Covid fight'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah appreciated CM Yediyurappa's leadership and the State Government's efforts in fighting Covid-19. "I have no hesitation to say that under Yediyurappa's leadership, Karnataka has done very well in fighting Covid," he said.

Transgenders in Bihar realise their khaki dream

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

BIHAR has paved the path for the transgenders to don khaki by sanctioning direct recruitment to the posts of constables and assistant sub-inspectors. Apart from this giant leap towards empowering the third gender, the state has also reserved one post out of every 500 in the constable-ASI ranks for the transgenders.

Touching upon the concept of proportional representation, a Home department notification said that out of the sanctioned police strength of 1,30,243, transgenders should be given 51 (41 ASI and 10 constable) posts based on their proportion of the total population. As per the 2011 census, the transgenders form 0.039 per cent (40,287) of Bihar's 10.41 crore population. The transgenders will have to take the written exam like others, and undergo a physical test, which will have the same benchmark as is applicable to women.

According to the notification, Superintendent of Police would be empowered to recruit constables, while the DIG would select the ASIs as per norms. The direct recruitment would be only for transgenders from Bihar.

Notable mentions

Chhattisgarh was the first state to allow transgenders in the police force in 2018, though K Prithika Yashini from Tamil Nadu was the first to be inducted into any police force as an SI in 2017.

Welcoming the decision, Reshma Prasad, one of the members of the National Council for Transgender Persons, said the community was grateful to the government. "The community has demanded a separate battalion of transgender police personnel, along with a two per cent quota, in the state police force," she said.

WHATSAPP DEFERS

ITS UPDATED DATA PRIVACY POLICY TILL MAY 15

Facing backlash over forcing upon users its updated privacy policy, Facebook-owned WhatsApp announced that it never had any plans to delete non-complying accounts on February 8. The date extension is aimed at clearing 'confusion' | P13

EXPRESS READ

NIA summons farmer leader

Bengaluru: The NIA has summoned farmer leader Baldev Singh Sirsa in connection with a case against leader of a pro-Khalistan outfit. P9

Fan complains of racism at SCG

Sydney: An Indian fan has alleged that he was subjected to racial abuse by a security officer at SCG, during the third Test against Australia played there.

Be an Entrepreneur & Generate Employment
MRN (NIRANI)
GROUP OF COMPANIES
Mudhol
krishi vikas
Inauguration of new Factories & Foundation stone laying ceremony for expansion of 75,000 TCD Sugar complex, 260 MW Co-Generation & 26 Lakh kilo Ltrs per day Ethanol, Bio CNG & CO2 Plants
Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs
Shri. Amit Bhai Shah Ji
Will be Inaugurating & Laying Foundation Stone Ceremony of Various Farmer Friendly Projects.
In the August Presence of
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. B. S. Yeddiyurappa Ji
HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL DIGNITARIES
17th January, 2021, Timing: 10:30 am.
Shri. Saipriya Sugars Ltd., Unit - 3
(Shri. Kedarnath Sugar & Agro Products Ltd.,)
Kerakalamatti, Badami Taluk,
Bagalkot District Karnataka State
Best Wishes From:
Directors / Advisory Committee / Officers / Employees / Farming Community,
MRN (Nirani) Group of Companies, Mudhol